

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 479
By McAfee

A RESOLUTION. to honor and commend Officer Gary Dockery for his perseverance and heroism.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should honor those exemplary citizens who have sacrificed their personal well-being and health to protect and preserve the public safety; and

WHEREAS, Officer Gary Dockery of the Walden Police Department in Hamilton County is most assuredly one such brave and heroic citizen; and

WHEREAS, upon responding to a domestic call while on duty, Officer Dockery was shot in the head by an assailant; and

WHEREAS, he was rushed to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga, where he remained for two weeks, and was then moved to Alexian Health Center in Signal Mountain; and

WHEREAS, for the next seven and one-half years, Gary Dockery survived in a semi-conscious state, speaking neither to his medical attendants nor his family members; and

WHEREAS, after over seven years in a bed-ridden state, Gary Dockery contracted pneumonia and was transferred to Parkridge Medical Center where he was quickly scheduled for surgery to alleviate several of his health problems; and

WHEREAS, before undergoing such surgery, Gary Dockery recovered consciousness and spoke to his family and doctors for the first time in seven and one-half years; and

WHEREAS, this event was viewed as a true miracle by all in attendance, and was an especially joyous occasion for his sons, Shane and Colt, who, for the first time in seven and one-half years, heard their father say "I love you"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his loving sons, Gary Dockery has been unwaveringly supported throughout his tortuous ordeal by his family, and especially his mother, Corena Thompson, father, French Dockery and four siblings, Dennis, Keith and Lisa Dockery and Gloria Standridge; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding staff of Alexian Health Center is to be greatly commended for preserving and maintaining Mr. Dockery's fragile physical health during the seven and one-half years he was in a semi-conscious state; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary staff of Parkridge Medical Center is likewise to be commended for their meritorious efforts which, at least partially, resulted in Mr. Dockery regaining full consciousness; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dockery's stellar attending physician is Dr. James Folkening; his urologist, Dr. Bruce Kaplan, has also played a significant role in his recovery to date; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly McBryde, Chief Executive Officer at Parkridge, and Ms. Carlene Jamerson, Chief Nursing Executive, were alacritous and compassionate in response to Mr. Dockery's needs both as a patient and person, and offered great comfort and solace to the entire family during this terrible ordeal; and

WHEREAS, Officer Gary Dockery risked his own life to protect the good people of Walden, and persevered against terrific odds to survive and live with dignity and purpose; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to specially recognize this good and brave man and congratulate him on his recovery to date; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Officer Gary Dockery upon his courage and bravery in the

performance of his duty as a police officer, his perseverance in the face of medical adversity, and his inspiring heroism in both instances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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